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Bennington 6th march 1779

Sir

I am directed by the council and the General Assembly of this State to recommend to your Excellency the present unhappy situation of the inhabitants of the northern frontiers of this State and to pray your Excellency's interposition for their future relief The contiguous situation of these inhabitants to the Enemy has rendered their safety parcticularly uncertain from the first commencement of the present War the many Allarms occasioned by the approaches of the Enemy have kept its inhabitants in such a fluctiating condition as has rendered it impracticable for them to have secured any considerable supplies of Provisions for the subsistance of their families beforehand. The encroachments of the Army under the command of Lieutenant General Burgoyn into this State in the Year 1777 their daring attempts to destroy this town and the public stores then deposited here commded the attention as well as the most vigorous exertions of those inhabitants: and altho there was at that time very plentiful crops of Grain corn Hay &c on the ground yet the Enemy prevented the Inhabitants from securing any considerable part of it That by their continuing in Service for the purpose of reducing General Burgoin to a submition the season of the year was so far advanced as to put it out of the power of those inhabitants to make the necessary preparations for a crop of winter grain in which they have ever had their greatest

dependance since the first settlement of this portion of the country) They are therefore the principal part of them reduced to an Indian cake in scant proportion to the number of their families; and by the destruction of their sheep by the Enemy and their loss of them otherwise as well as of their flax their Bellies and Backs are become cosufferers In this deplorable situation may it please your Excellency they remain firm and unshaken and being generally well armed and accoutred are ready on any sudden emergency, and on the shortest notice to face and encounter their inveterate foe undaunted but in viewing their present circumstances, it may be your Excellency may be prevailed on to make such provision for the security of those frontiers (which are no less so to three other States) as to prevent the fatal necessity of continuing those inhabitants in constant service the ensuing summer With this be communicated a copy of Brigd. Genl. Clinton's letter of the 25th ult. by which your Excellency will perceive his readiness to grant every relief in power In consequence of this advice I have ordered the continuance of the company of Malitia therein named and an addition of fifty men exclusive of officers to join them immediately If after all that has been exhibited on this subject it should be found inconsistant to adopt any other means in the case I desire an order may be granted for the subsistance and pay of the officers and soldiers that may be found necessary to be raised from time to time within this state for the purpose aforesaid The Bearer hereof Joseph Fay Esquire in whose attachment to the common cause, your Excellency may repose the greatest confidence will be able to give any further intelligence

in the promises and waits any advice or direction Your
Excellency may please to communicate

235:32

I am Sir Your Excellency's most
Obedient Humble Servent
Thomas Chittenden

His Excellency
General Washington

Sir 6 March 1779

The fifth campaign drawing towards openings and Lake Champlain (from the last intelligence) being broken up. and the Enemy's Ships of Force and secreting parties, every day expected down the Lake, which may annoy and massacre the frontier Inhabitants; has given rise to great uneasiness, as this frontier is but weakly guarded and widely extended, which has induced the Govenor of this infant State with the advice of his council and House of Assembly, to lay before your Excellency the true circumstances of the Inhabitants.

From these facts your Excellency will be able with equal justice to adjust matters in this part of the Northern Department and grant such relief as shall be adequate to their necessitous condition

Undoubtedly your Excellency will readily concur that this part of the Country have done more than their equal proportion in the War, and though they are greatly reduced as to materials to mountain standing forces, yet on sudden emergencies, their Militia is able and willing to face any equal number of the enemy provided they should have no other reward than the satisfaction of defeating them

Ethan Allen

General Washington

Accompanying a letter of Gov Chittenden's dated
March 6th 1779 ——

Norwich, April 19th. 1779

235.34

To the Inhabitants of the State of Vermont.

Friends and Fellow-Countrymen,

Pursuant to instructions received from the Govenor and Council of this State, to wait on the Hon. the General Assembly of the State of New Hampshire, at their sesson in March last, I waited on them; and at the request of several Gentlemen in this State, I now publish a short concise account of some matters that concern this State.

I arrived at Exeter on the Evening of the 19th of March, and the next morning delivered the publick writings (that were entrusted me by the Govenor and Council of this State) to the President, and they were read in Council; and the President informed me, that General Bailey and Mr Phelps were to have a hearing before both Houses in the afternoon of the 23d, in a matter respecting the Grants on both sides of Connecticut-river, when it would be proper for me to attend, and the papers by me exhibited read.

Being favored with a copy of a petition to that Hon. Court, by General Bailey and Mr Phelps, I was excited to publish a Handbill on the 22d, some of which I herewith exhibit. — The before-named Gentlemen not arriving, on the morning of the 25th I desired the Papers by me delivered the President might be read in the House, which was done, and a Committee appointed to take said Papers, and confer with me and report their opinion thereon. Some Members of the House then moved, that said Committee might go out that afternoon. I informed the House, that I did not move for those papers to be read, to have a determination; but that I viewed it of consequence to both Governments, and that the Hon. House might be possessed of the whole matter, and have time for mature deliberation thereon: And that as General Bailey —

axed Mr Phelps had prefered a petition to the Hon. Assembly previous to my arrival. I wished they might have an opportunity to support their petition, as the determination of one case would in some measure determine the other;-and that all parties might be satisfied, desired that the determination might be suspended until said Gentlemen arrived-which was done.

I shall next insert said petition, which is in these words Viz. To the Hon. the President in Council, and the Representatives of the State of New-Hampshire in General Assembly convened: The Subscribers hereto beg leave to represent.

That a large number of charters of incorperation of certain tracts of land, were formerly issued from their Excellencies Benning Wentworth and John Wentworth, Esq'rs in the name of the King of Great-Britain, lying and being west of the Mason Grant, and East of a north line drawn from the northwest corner of the now State of the Massachusetts-Bay to Lake Champlain, and from thence to the Latitude of forty-five degrees—That in the year 1764 the aforesaid King of Great-Britain, in violation of his contract with the Grantees, and in an arbitrary manner, passed a decree that there should be a division of the aforesaid Grants between the then Provinces of New York and New Hampshire; to which decree the inhabitants of said Grants were then, and have ever since been averse, as they were thereby deprived of privileges which they of right claimed, and in their settlement reasonably expected within the jurisdiction of New-Hampshire.— That the inhabitants aforesaid since declaration of Independence, view themselves at liberty to connect in one body politic, or unite with any other State.— That they are now in general desirous of an union with the State of New Hampshire— That the Representatives of the People in Assembly on the 20th of October last, voted, That a defence of the rights of the people be stated by a Committee appointed for that purpose; and that answers to some letters, &c. be drafted by said Committee.—

Also, that offers be made to the State of New Hampshire either to settle a boundary line between said New Hampshire and the Grants, by a Committee mutually chosen, or in such a way as Congress may point out; or to make an offer of the whole of said Grants to New-Hampshire

That on the 9th day of December last, by a Convention of Committees delegated by the inhabitants of said Grants, it was voted, That proposals of an union with said New-Hampshire be made to the Assembly of said State

In consequence whereof, we the Subscribers, being duly authorized for that purpose, do now propose to this honorable Court, that the whole of said Grants be connected and confederated with said State of New Hampshire, receiving and enjoying equal privileges and immunities with the good people of said State

Dated at Newbury, this 17th day of March, 1779.

Jacob Bailey,
Davenport Phelps.

A true copy of the original Petition, prefered to the General Assembly of the State of New Hampshire, at their Sitting in March 1779

Attest Noah Emery, Clerk, D.R.

An extract of the proceedings of the Cornish Convention which authorised said Gentlemen to make overtures to New Hampshire, containing the proposals of said Convention to said State, is as follows, viz.

1. To agree upon and settle a dividing line between New Hampshire, and the Grants, by Committees from each party, or otherwise, as they may mutually agree.

Or, 2. That the parties mutually agree in the appointment of a Court of Commissioners of disinterested judicious men of the three other New England States, to hear and determine the dispute

Or, 3. That the whole dispute with New Hampshire be submitted to the decision of Congress, in such way and manner as Congress in their wisdome shall prescribe.

Provided always, That the Grants be allowed equal privileges

with the other party in espousing and conducting their cause

Ar. 4. If the controversy cannot be settled on either of the foregoing articles, and in case we can agree with New-Hampshire upon a plan of government, inclusive of extent of territory, that we unite with, and become with them one entire State rejecting the arbitrary line drawn on the western bank of Connecticut-River by the King of Great Britain in 1764.

The reader is now invited to take a retrospective view of said Petition and Extract, and candidly determine for himself how near said petition comports with the directions from said Convention.

It is to be observed, that there were but eight towns on the west side of Connecticut River represented in said Convention yet General Bailey* had the audacity to declare in said petition, that they were duly authorised by the inhabitants of the Grants to make such an overture to New-Hampshire; and that said inhabitants were in general desireous of an union with said State.

But to return to the Assembly of New-Hampshire.— General Bailey and Mr Phelps arrived in town the evening of the 29th and on the 30th had a hearing before both Houses, and the papers which I had before delivered the President were read; and it was moved, that a Committee should be appointed from both Houses, to take up the whole matter; and the Council [redacted] so.

The House proceeded to chuse a Committee, which was joined by the Hon. Board, and the parties were notified to attend.

The Committee reported to the House (in the forenoon of the 2d of April) for the Assembly of New-Hampshire to lay to the whole of the Grants, on this principle. viz. Not to hinder the State of Vermont from being established as a State by Congress. but rather to help the inhabitants. in case the Yorkers should hinder said State from being established by Congress; and that New Hampshire should exercise jurisdiction

* I omit Mr Phelps's name as he is an inhabitant on the east side of Connecticut river

to the west bank of Connecticut-river. — After a small debate on the report, one of the Members of the House desired to know whether said report was agreeable to me or not. I then informed the Hon. House that it was by no means agreeable to me, — and the consideration of the report was laid over until afternoon, when the House resumed the consideration of said report. — Mr Phelps spake in favor of said report, and I spake largely against it, in which I observed, That I did not doubt of the good disposition of New Hampshire towards Vermont — that it was near fifteen years since New Hampshire had laid any claim to the Grants west of Connecticut-river; during which time the inhabitants had suffered all evils that a Golden, Dunmore, Tryon and a Clinton, together with a clan of New York land-jobbers could invent and inflict; but that a glorious spirit of freedom stimulated the Green Mountain Boys (in former days) to draw and wield their swords in defence of their persons and properties — that they had hitherto baffled all their diabolical machinations against — that the State of Vermont had nothing to fear from New York — that it had been the wisdom of the Assembly of said State to appoint three Agents to wait on Congress as often as the nature of the case might require, who would be able to give seasonable information should any difficulty arise at Congress. — That I was apprehensive that such a claim (altho' it seemed well meant) would tend to make, or rather continue some internal broils in the State of Vermont; and therefore wished said claim might be suspended to some future day. — And the consideration of said report was laid over to the next Session of said Assembly.

Since my arrival from New Hampshire to this place, have been informed that Remonstrances against this State were signed and signing in a few towns, by the instigation of some of the protesting Members of the late Council and Assembly of this State, in order to be prefered to the Grand Council of America

that a number (nearly similar to the others) have been lately printed for that purpose, one of which I have before me on which I observe several grofs mistakes, but shall not take notice of any but what are contained in the fourth paragraph or said Remonstrance, which is in these words, Viz.

4. That they have, contrary to the resolves of Congrefs, proceed to confiscate many and large estates belonging to persons called Tories, and have disposed of them accordingly, and the avails appropriated to many frivolous and unnecessary purposes, without depositing any part thereof in the Continental Loan Offices.

Whether it be right or wrong to confiscate the estates of Tories, I do not take it upon me at this time to determine; but have to observe, that those very Gentlemen were active with the other Members of the Council and Assembly, in forming a Court of Confiscation, and confiscating the Estates of Tories, and have assisted in disposing of the avails of such Estates. — As the money has passed through my hands, shall give some account of it — a very considerable part of it has been paid to the brave Officers and Soldiers who have served in defence of this and the United States. — and I have now in my Office upwards of Sixteen thousand Dollars in Continental Loan-Office Notes.

I am well informed that several of the members of the Grand Council of America, do not hesitate to give it as their opinion in public company, that the State of Vermont of right ought to be a State, and that in due time it will be established as such.

As the Laws of this State were committed to my care, to see to the printing of, have to inform That the Printers have been some time engaged in the business, and will not attend to any other until that is accomplished. But to print them neatly will take considerable time, and cannot be done as soon as was expected; but depend that they will be ready to deliver to Assembly at their next Session in Windsor... I am Sirs Your most obedient humble Servant Ira Allen

(June 3) 235:38

By his Excellency Thomas Chittenden Esquire
Governor Captain General and Commander in Chief
in and over the State of Vermont.

A Proclamation 3 June 1779

Whereas sundry persons inhabitants of this State forgetting that great tie of allegiance that aught to bind every subject in a faithful obedience to that power which life Liberty and fortune Being instigated partly through their own mistaken notions of Government, not considering all power orgonates from the people and building on a fals reason that a publick acknowledgement of the powers of the earth is essential to the existance of a distinct seperate State but more especially being deceived and influenced by certain persons who have crept in privily to spy out and overturn the liberties of the State purchased at the dearest rate who acting under pretence of power assumed by a neighbouring sister State never derived from God or nature have imposed there tenets on the creditors whereby some have been led to follow their pernicious ways, in consequence of which some of my faithful subjects have been traduced to oppose the authority of this State and obstruct the course of Civil law to the disturbance of the peace thereby incurring the penalties of that great rule of right which requires obedience to the powers that be And whereas the supreme authority of this State are even willing to alleviate the miseries of those unhappy subjects who transgress laws through mistaken notions in ~~relation~~ remitting the penalties thereof and in as much as equal punishments (in this case) cannot be distributed without punishing the righteous with the

wickid: I have therefore thought fit by and with the advice of Council and at the desire of the representatives of the freemen of this State in General assembly met to make known and declare this my gracious design of mercy to every offender and do hereby publish and declair to all persons residing within this State a full and free pardon of all public offences crimes and misdemeanors heretofore committed within the limits of the same against the honor and dignity of the freemen thereof remitting to all singular the persons aforesaid all penalties incurred for breach of the peace, such as riots mobs tumultuous assemblies contempt of and opposition to authority excepting only the crime of high treason misprison of treason and other capitol offences committed since the 15th day of January 1777 and all persons indicted informed against or complained of for any of the offences aforesaid committed before this date may plead this proclamation in discharge thereof provided nothing herein contained be construed to extend to any person against whom judgment has been already rendered nor to bar any person from recovering private damages any thing contained herein to the contrary notwithstanding And I do further assure the subject of this State that it is not the design of government to take from any one the peaceable enjoyment of his own possessions ~~acquired~~ acquired by the sweat of his brow whatever falsehood wicked and designing men may heave invented to disquiet the minds of the faithful subjects of the State of Vermont

Given under my hand and seal at arms in the Council chamber of Windsor on the 3d day of June 1779

in the 39 year of the independance of this and the 235:39
United States of America

Thomas Chittenden

By his Excellency's command
Jonas Fay Secretary pro tempt

God save the people

Gratton

Camp Highlands, June 7th 1779 235:40

Sir

I had the honor of receiving your Letter of the first of June covering sundry resolutions of Congress relative to the pretended State of Vermont, at this place: Where I have collected a very large body of the Militia of the state in order to strengthen the Continental army under Major General Mc Dougal and to oppose the designs of the enemy, who have advanced in force within eight miles of our army. The Legislature of this State were to have met the first instant, but have been prevented by the present alarm; Great part of the Members, as well as the principal Officers of Government being now in the field. This has rendered it impossible to lay before the Legislature at present the resolutions of Congress transmitted to me, which from their nature demand in my opinion, their most serious consideration.

It is with an astonishment equal to my concern that I observe the Congress have passed over in unprecedented silence my remonstrances and the seizing & imprisonment of the principal officers of Government in the County of Cumberland by the revolters of this state, so that without the interposition of this Government (which consistent with the Honor and justice of the State cannot be withheld) these persons must fall a sacrifice to the ambitious and interested views of a violent and wicked faction: And what renders their silence still more extraordinary is that Ethan Allen having the rank of a Col in the Service of the United States, was a principal actor in this outrage

How far this conduct is consistent with the repeated resolutions of Congress recorded on their Journals, that they will discountenance every species of disrespect shewn by any officer in their service to the Legislatures or executive authorities of the respective States, or with their resolutions of the first of June now transmitted to me, That they will pay an equal attention to the rights of the State of New York, with those of the other States of the Union. I shall, for the present, leave for their candor to determine. I cannot however forbear observing that the present inattention of Congress on the point strikes me with additional surprise, when I consider that this is not the first instance in which the person I have mentioned, and some others of their officers of high rank have aimed at both sides at the honor and authority of this State — so long ago as the month of August last I remonstrated to Congress through General Washington on the conduct of Brig. General Stark. then commanding at Albany for receiving from the revolted subjects of this State several of its citizens, who had been apprehended and detained for punishment, by Col Allen & his associates, and for detaining them under military confinement. To this atrocious insult on the civil Authority of this State, Congress, though made acquainted with it, has not to this day thought proper to pay the least attention. However pure the intentions of Congress may have been in their resolutions for appointing a committee to confer with the revolted ~~subjects~~ citizens of this State, I am apprehensive it will by no means produce the salutary effects, for which I suppose it was calculated, for notwithstanding the just and

generous terms offered in my different proclamations founded on the resolutions of the Legislature of this State the reputation & disposition of the principal actors in this ~~state~~ revolt has still increased; by this, it will be considered an implied acknowledgement of their authority, and thereby tend to strengthen their usurpation; and, in the midst of the well effected citizens, who know the repeated and uncontradicted declarations, which the principal revolters have made that they have received encouragement from several members of Congress, some of whose names are mentioned, and who have observed that the most flagrant insults against the authority of this State, even by officers of Congress, have been totally disregarded, it will. I have too much cause to fear excite fresh jealousies. For these reasons & because the last clause of the resolution seems to hold up a principle which may be considered by the Legislature as subversive of the internal polity of the state. I submit it to the consideration of Congress, whether it would not be prudent to postpone the journey of the committee till such time as the Legislature have convened and taken the resolutions of Congress under consideration For however prejudicial a delay in this matter, will certainly be to the interests of this State, the evils resulting from it, would not be so extensive, as those, which might ensue from a breach between the Legislature of this State, and the General Congress. These remarks, it has become my duty as the supreme executive Magistrate of the state to make on the resolutions transmitted to me What the sense of the Legislature on them will be I can not take upon me to determine; but if, I can judge from the sentiments of several members of the Legislatures, and principal officers of Government now with me, to whom I have I have communicated

them. I have reason to think they will be considered as by no means satisfactory. The measures of the suffferings of this state is nearly full: those which have been brought upon them by their spirited exertions in the common cause, and the operations of a powerful and enraged enemy. they have, I trust submitted to with a becoming firmness. In what light they will consider the attacks made upon them, in the hour of their distress by those who ought to be their friends, & supporters, will be best judged of considering the unconquerable spirit they have shown in resisting the encroachments and usurpations of the British Government. By the critical situation in which the resolution of Congress have placed the executive authority of this State, will constrain me to quit the field in order to convene the Legislature. You will be pleased to direct your next letters for me at my house near Poughkeepsie

I am with the highest respect. Your excellency's
most obt servt

George Clinton

His Excellency John Jay Esqr.

235.42

Bennington June 27th 1779

Gentlemen

Since you left this place Deacon Sessions and Mr Smith arrived by whome I am informed the officers under the state have proceeded to draught men agreable to my orders of the 11th inst and have accordingly taken the goods of sundry persons and sold them at publice vandue for the payment of fines agreable to the laws of this state Therefore as this disturbance is occasioned wholly by means of those persons ~~negleb-~~ ~~ting~~ neglecting to do their proportion and duty in the present War You will redily concive that this cannot be construed as any breach of my engagement to you agreable to your advice

I am Gentlemen with the highest sentiments of esteem your Honors most obedient Humble Servt.

Thomas Chittenden

The Honorable Govt.

Wetherspoon and

Colonel Attlee Members of a committee of Congress

State of Vermont Bennington ss June 24th 1779

Gentlemen

Agreable to your requisition I have made and subjoined to your question the following answer viz

Question. Are there any lands in this state unappropriated

Answer. Yes a large body which was not granted previous to the Kings prohibition to the Governor of New York

Question. Are there any lands which have been patented by the State of Vermont and in what condition were they before

Answer now as yet but many petitions are mad and one on file waiting for a settlement of the public disputes

Question Are there any lands patented under New Hampshire and regranted to different persons under New York but are not yet occupied by either of the grantees

Answer Yes a large quantity Question. Are there any lands patented under New York of date prior to the patents under New hampshire and at presant possesed under the New hampshire title Answer some old patitants of New York are said to extend over some parts of the Townships of Bunal Bennington and Shaftsbery Question. Ans there any persons living in the state of Vermont upon the New hampshire Rights who have large property in lands in different Townships not yet improved Answer. Some few there are and there is many that own small quantities Question. Are there any persons in actual possession of lands under the New York title to which others have a

Question. Are you satisfied that the Proclamation by the Governor of New York would secure your property in the soil tho the Jurisdiction were alowed. Answer by no means as it is only a shadow without any principle substance calculated to answer sinister purposes which is implied in his second proclamation viz. That all such lands which have heretofore been granted by the Government of New hampshire or Massechusetts Bay and have not since been granted by the Govern-ment of New York "The words" and have not been since granted by Government of New York wholly excludes the most valuable lands in this State including that which is in actual possession as the state of New York have since made grants of the same lands and presume to say it is not in the power of the legislature of New York to confirm those lands being previously granted. to others there is sundry other passages in the same proclamation equally insufficient and dissatisfactory Question. If the property of your lands were perfectly secured to you would you be willing to return under the Jurisdiction of New York And we are in the fullest sense as unwilling to be under the Jurisdiction of New York as we can conceive America would to return back under the power of Great Britain except a few disaffected inhabitants who are themselves unwilling subjects of this State on the approbation of Congress and nor should consider our liberties and priviledges both Civil and religious equally exposed in future invasions

Question Would your returning under the Jurisdiction of New York promote or hinder the complete settlement of the country Answer Experience has taught me to believe that it greatly impeeds the settlement of this country to have it affixed to New York

Question. What was the occasion of Colonel Allens proceeding by Arms to take and confine Laundry officers in Cumberland County who professed to be subjects of New York

Answer Colonel Allen proceeded into Cumberland County under the direction of the civil Authority of this office in apprehending a certain number of persons for the purpose of bringing them before the supreem courte of this state for tryal for notously impeding a certain officer in the execution of his office in selling estate taken by said officer accordind to law from persons who refused to do their turne of militia duty in guarding the frontiers of this state and the United States of America against the common enemy agreeable to orders of the Board of War of this state Issued in pursuance of advice recived from Brigadier Geneal Clinton for that purpose

Question Are You willing and do You think it is the minds of the people to refer the final decision of the matter at any rate to the Congress of the United States

Answer I believe I may be Warranted to say in behalf of the people of this state that they would think themselves happy in ~~com~~ submitting the long controverted differences subsisting between this and the state of New York to the determination of congress they being alowed equal priviledges as the State of New York is supporting their cause reserving to themselves in the trial all priviledges immunities and advantages which they had or might have by any former grants jurisdictions powers and priviledges on account of any province or state heretofore had notwithstanding any subsequent transaction,

I am gentlemen with the highest respect

Your obedient Servant

Thomas Chittenden

The Honorable Doct.
Witherspoon and
Colonel Atlee members of committee
of congress

235:45

Bennington 23 June 1779

Sir

Your favour by Mr Tucker came to hand yesterday. am unhappy to hear of a second insurrection and open violation of the Authority of this and the United States The presant distressed situation of our northern frontiers absolutely demands the assistance of their brethren and friends I am sorry to finds that private defficulties should in the least impede and prevent a General Union in defence of the Grand contest on which the Liberty and happiness of the whole depends With pleasure I can inform you and desire the same may be communicated to the respective Inhabitants that a committee of the honorable continental Congress have arrived at this placed from which we may expect the most salutary and agreeable effect in a speedy settlement of the unhappy dispute between this and the State of New York From the situation of the presant affairs and the pressing necessity of securing our frontier Inhabitants togather with the advice of the committee aforesaid transmitted in a letter. I presume the inhabitants will redily turn out in defence of their country agreable to orders. And in the mean time I would recommend (while they continue to do their proportion in the presant War) the suspending of all prosecutions in law against those who acknowledge themselves subjects of the State of New York (except capital offences) untill Congress makes a final determination in the matter

Thomas Chittenden

True copy per Jonas Fay

Bennington June 23 D 1779

235:46

Gentlemen -

The subscribers are here at present as members of a Committee of Congress sent for the express purpose of endeavouring to bring about an amicable settlement of the differences between the State of New York and the Inhabitants of the New Hampshire Grants who have formerly themselves into a State called by them the State of Vermont, We have understood that you and others who adhere to the State of New York have declined taking your turn of Militia duty for the defence of the Frontiers of the State of Vermont, and that you have met with some trouble on this account, We have therefore sent this to inform you that we hope there will be by interposition of Congress a happy accommodation of all differences in a short time, in the mean while we have obtained a promise from Governor Chittenden that you shall not be molested till matters are finally settled, and we have engaged to write to you voluntarily and freely to raise your full proportion of men whenever your neighbours are called, and you are informed of this either by continental officers or the new State till such time as you have special directions from the Governor of New York, which we have hopes to obtain for you on our return home This we are confident you will readily comply with or other wise people will be tempted To impute your conduct to disaffection to the cause of the United States, We hope you will understand that the situation and forbearance which is promised as in your behalf is to be considered as on the condition of your condially complying with our request and in every respect behaving quietly and orderly while the measures for pacification are on foot

Jnº Weathershon
Samuel Bell

Samuel Benedict Esqr and others The Subjects of New York on the New Hampshire Grants

Philadelphia July 1st 1779

Gentlemen We ever have been and still are willing that every part of the conduct of the people we represent (so far as relates to the measures which have been come into for establishing the State of Vermont) should at any convenient time be fully laid before the Grand Council of America, together with the solicitation of our Constituents for a union with the other free and independant States of America; as agreeable to the declaration of said Constituents (in full convention) made at Westminster on the fifteenth day of January A.D. 1777, and exhibited to Congress soon after. "They always stand ready in conjunction with their fellow brethren in the United States to pay their equal proportion of the present just War with Great Britain." But being sensible of the inconvenience which might attend your Honors in the deliberation and final determination of a matter of such importance. While the War with Great Britain, and the circulating medium remain in the present condition. we would be far from urging a decision in the premises, until you can have leisure to take it up deliberately: confidently relying (in the mean time) that, whenever such opportunity shall present, we shall have reasonable notice to prepare & lay in our defence

Therefore (at this time) we inclose you only a copy of our appointment and instructions, with a printed hand-bill

Ira Allen's Address

To the Inhabitants of the State of Vermont

Friends and Fellow Citizens — 13 July 1779

Pursuant to an appointment by the Legislature, and Instructions from the Govenor and Council of this State, I waited on the General Court of New Hampshire at their Sessions in June last, and delivered the publick writings intrusted to me by the Govenor of this State, to the President, which were read in Council, and sent to the House for their inspection; The House, after reading and considering the same, resolved into a committee to take into consideration the whole matter respecting Vermont, which was concurred in by the Honerable Board: And Thursday the 24th ~~inst~~ of June, the committee met in assembly chamber, and the resolves of Congress of 1st and 2nd of June respecting the premesis, and several other papers were read; among which was the appointment of Cols. Peter Olcott and Bza Woodward, Esqr: empowering them as a Committee from the committee of the Cornish Convention, to use their influence with the General Court of New Hampshire, to extend their claim and jurisdiction over the whole of the New Hampshire Grants. A question was put to said committee by a Member of the House, "How many towns were represented in said Cornish convention on the west side of Connetticut river?" Answer, "About twenty two in the whole and about half of them west of said river." Said Committee then proceed to exhibit the returns made on a [illegible] bill formed by a committee of the Cornish Convention on the 23rd of April last and sent

to the several towns in this State, for the expres purpose of getting the number of the inhabitants that were willing that N. Hampshire should extend their claim and jurisdiction over the whole of the Grants. Their returns were sixty five persons. They also alledged that they mislaid or lost the returns of one town in which there were there were one hundred and twenty families, and but four persons voted in opposition to connecting with New Hampshire: That the reason why more persons had not voted on said handbill was that they had not circulated through the grants by the reason of their falling into the hands of the New States-men who secreted them: That for eight miles up and down Connetticut river there were but two members that attended the Assembly of Vermont: That so far as they had been able to collect the sentiments of the people they were very generally on the East side of Green Mountains and a number on the west side of said Mountains for connecting with New Hampshire: Then refering to the Members of the House who lived contiguous to Connetticut river to inform what they knew respecting the matter. Judge Marsh then arose and with a degree of warmth asserted that to his certain knowledge, two thirds of the inhabitants of the Grants west of the river, would hold up both hands to connect with New Hampshire: After more of the members of the House in conversation with the members had endeavoured to insinuate theirs nearly similar — I then proceeded to make my defence, In which I observed that it was strange that these Gentlemen were at a loss to determine how many towns were represented in the Cornish convention, as one was the clerk and both members

of the same: That there were but eight towns west of the river 235:5°
represented in said convention: That the town said Committee
had reference to, as having one hundred and twenty families, was the town
of Norwich, in which Colo Olcott lived; That I was informed by
several respectable Gentlemen of that vicinity, that all due pains
were taken to convene the legal voters on town meeting day, some
refused to attend as they would not act against the state of Vermont
Others were tired of town meetings, and neglected to attend; in
all, thirty one persons met, twenty seven for New Hampshire
and four for Vermont: That I had as good, if not a better right
to count those who did not attend the meeting, for Vermont, as
they, for New Hampshire: That said Handbills had been sent
to the County of Bennington, in several places, and that the
people there did not take so much notice of them as to execute
or burn them: That I was knowing to said handbills circulating
thro' a very considerable part of Cumberland County: That in several
towns where they had town meetings on the business said hand
bills were read and the towns voted to have nothing to do
with them: In other towns the selectmen said they knew nothing
of "F. Marsh, Chairman" and if they called a town Meeting at
his request, by the same rule they might have a town
Meeting every day if any Gentleman desired it, therefore they
would have nothing to do with it. That by this open & public trial
they had proved that General Bayley, at least was mistaken when
he asserted in his petition (prefered to the General Assembly of
New Hampshire, at their Sessin in March last) that the inhab-
itants of Grants, in general were desirous of a Union with New
Hampshire: That the eight Miles mentioned by said Committee

when there were but twenty3 Members attended the Assembly3 of Vermont, was true: but part of that district was woods consequently3 no Members from thence could attend; and some of the other part was thinly settled, and several towns joined to those one Member but in that distance, and fore more than eighty miles more down the river, through a settled country, there were but four towns on the river where they had got so much as one man to act in favor of connecting with New Hampshire. And not so much as one fourth part of the legal voters in those four towns — a very small Minority3 indeed in favor of connecting with New Hampshire.

I then proceeded to treat largely on the fundimental arguments viz: the change of jurisdiction in 1774 — The Proclamation issued by his excellency Benning Wentworth Esqr. dated about February 1765 — The heads of the greavances, the inhabitents of Vermont have suffered from New York since 1764 to the present era — Expences in sending agents to Great Britain — New Hampshire refusing to exert herself to recover her jurisdiction altho' often requested by the inhabitents of the Grants, when they were put to the great extremity3 by New York — The right that the people had to assume Government since the present revolution. Constitution and code of Laws established — Officers of Government together with the freemen of the State sworne to support the Constitution thereof, as established by convention — Letters from the General Court of the State of New Hampshire in November last giving their full approbation

to the State of Vermont being established by Congress as such, provided the people there, as a politicial body, would dissolve all connexion with sixteen towns East of Connetient river, which they alledged to be a part of New Hampshire; That every engagement on the part of Vermont to New Hampshire, was fulfilled: That it was one thing for that State to lay a jurisdictional claim to the territory of Vermont, and another to exercise jurisdiction

The committee of both houses desolved, and the House resumed the subject, and voted to lay claim to the jurisdiction of the whole of the New Hampshire Grants; to the westward of Connetient river; Neverthe[illegible] allowing and conceding that if the Hon. Continential Congress should establish the State of Vermont, that in such case the State of New Hampshire will acquiesce therein: And that said State should not extend jurisdiction father west then the west bank of Connetient river, till otherwise directed by Congress.—
Concured by the Hon. Board — The General Court then chose a committee to wait on the committee of Congress, supposing they would come to the County of Grafton.

Although this procedure of the Court of New Hampshire doth not appear to be to the disadvantage of Vermont but rather as a Bar against New York; Yet I must not omit to observe that there are a number of the Members of that Court who would be exceedingly glad to have the territory of Vermont added to New Hampshire. The principal motives to me appear to be three Viz: That the addition of the territory of Vermont to that State would most certainly bring the seat of Government into another neighborhood; but the greater inducement is the unappropriated

and tory lands within this State, which if added to New Hampshire, would help them in the heavy lift of paying taxes.— If said lands are a sufficient Motive for some part of General Court of New Hampshire to wish to enlarge their Government for a share in them, surely it would not be for the interest of the inhabitants of this State, to take in so many partners on that footing, but to the interest of each individual to oppose such an ungenerous extention of New Hampshire: and warrantable for the following reasons:

The State of Vermont is at this time formidable to its old adversary, New York, and has little or nothing to fear from her power in arms or Influence in Congress.— In former days, when under British administration, for any sett of men to rise and oppose the Authority, was thought a most daring thing. People in general were under a strong traditional bies in favor of Government, and but few, how much soever they might be opposed, had that fortitude and patriotism that they dare appear in arms to defend their just rights, in opposition to the undue exercise of laws, when attempted to be exercised by legal officers of justice; and when they did, seldom failed of loosing some of their lives, and being vanquished by their adversaries; witness Nobleton, Livingston, Manor, Botemains Patent, &c.— In those days, the Greenmountain Boys were put to the sad alternative of rising in arms and opposing the legislative and executive Authority of New York, or of giving up their lands and possessions to the land jobbers of said province, Then the Green Mountain boys were seen in Numbers, settled in a wilderness Country, generally poor,

but little more than the Heavens to protect them and their families from the inclemency of the weather, the justice of their cause not publickly known, a rich, powerful and intreaguing province to contend with, who did not fail to send their emissaries among them, in order to make divisions, ~~among~~ by commissions, and every other way in their power. In short, no kind of bribery or corruption was to mean for them to be guilty of. Then were the lives, liberties and properties of the people at Stake. In this situation, a few companies of Green Mountain boys, stimulated by the same patriotic Spirit of Freedom, which has since shined with a superior lustre, from one end of this continent to the other) baffled all the diabolical machinations of their inveterate adversaries, for more than seven years together. Can this be accounted for, without acknowledging the propitious agency of the Deity? In those days, repeated applications were made to New Hampshire, to exert herself to obtain jurisdiction again, but her language was nearly similar to that of righteous Job; for it was the King gave, and the King had taken away, and blessed be the name of the King. From that day to this, said State has not exerted herself to obtain jurisdiction again

It was by virtue of a royal ediet that New Hampshire had ever a right of jurisdiction to the westward of Connecticut river and by the same authority, in 1764. The jurisdiction was extended to the western bank of ~~Connecticut~~ said river; and the Assembly of said province acquiesce therein. The members thereof did publickly assent that they had no desire that their province should extend any farther than said river, and that they would not do any thing to obtain

jurisdiction over a territory they did not want. Had the people then submitted to the jurisdiction of New York and since the revolution, associated with them, and assisted in forming a Constitution, establish courts, &c. the inhabitants would now have been boundmen to the jurisdiction of said State: and it would have been now as much out of the power of New Hampshire, to extend their jurisdiction to their ancient western limits, as for Massachusetts Bay. Now to extend their jurisdiction to their ancient northern limits which I believe none are now so hardy as to think of.

By what has already been elucidated, it appears that the inhabitants of the Grants, by their own exertions, have saved themselves from the heavy yoke of bondage, which New York had prepared for them and their posterity; and that the right of New Hampshire (so late in the day) to the territory of Vermont, must be very inconsiderable. And now, for a few of the members of that General Court, with the assistence of a few individuals to the east and west of Connecticut river (for sinister Views) to think of breaking up the state of Vermont and connecting the territory thereof again to New Hampshire is an idle whim, a mere chimera — It is well known that by reason of oppression from Great Britain, America revolted from her, and published to the world a list of greivances for the vindication of her conduct — In like manner, the new inhabitants of Vermont, published a list of greivances, received from New York, which to me appear as numerous

and aggravating, as those this continent has against Great Britain
All governmentel power was given by God himself, to the
people, therefore the Inhabitants of the new State of Vermont
did associate together, and assume to themselves that inestimable
blessing of heaven "Civil Government". This they did upon the
same grand original basis, or great rule of eternal right, that
a number of the present powers of Europe revolted from the
several kingdoms to which they paid allegiance, and on
which the United States of America revolted from Great
Britain, and assumed to themselves civil Government. The
inhabitants of Vermont for more than ten years last past,
have nobly exerted themselves, for the defence of their Liberty
& property, and in the present revolution did most heartily join
their brethren for the joint defence of the liberties and
property of the Americans in general, and have distinguished
themselves to the world, as a truely brave and enterprising people;
and it is conceded to, by the United States, that they have done
their full proportion in this war, consequently, they are entitled
to equal privileges with the rest of their brethren in America.

They have not delegated their natural right of legislation out
of their own hands. Their numbers and territory are sufficient
for a state: and they who have as good a right to govern their own
internal policy as any one of the United States have theirs. By
their noble exertions in the cause of liberty, they have acquired the
esteem and confidence of the United States, merited a right to the
Articles of the confederacy, and a seat in the grand council of
America. These precious privilges, I conceive, will be the ultimate

reward of their many expensive toils, battles, and Voyages, and for the attainment of which, they have shared such an uncommon share of concomitant evils. And as I have reason to apprehend the grand Council of America is composed of as great patriots as any on earth, doubt not but that in due time, they will grant us our reasonable request: Indeed it is for the interest of the United States to do it, as soon as the circumstances of the continent will admit: therefore we kneed not hurry them;- It is an ancient Maxim, that representation and taxation should go together, and until this State is represented in Congress, no continental tax can justly be laid on it.

It is not strange that any of the inhabitants of this State who have perused the constitution and laws and duly considered the advantages that would accrue to each individual by being and remaining a distinct State, would be willing to give up the privileges, and connect with any other State. Surely the constitution is upon the most liberal foundation: the laws are well calculated to preserve inviolate the liberties and properties of each individual; that act of Oblivion settles past controversies, and puts those who made the laws, and those who opposed them on ~~the~~ one footing, each having a right to the protection of the same; and as one common interest runs through the whole, I hope that past animosities will be forgotten, and all join hand in hand, to support their common rights & interests. The circumstances of this State, in some respects, are different from any other State on the continent;

it is not in debt.— I have as much money in my office, as is due from the State, except what I have taken in upon Loan; to ballance which, I have in my office about as much money in continental Loan office Notes, so that on a ballance, the State is little or none in debt, excepting what may be supposed to be this States proportion of the Continental debt.— If any individual in the State is not satisfied with this stating of accounts, I invite him to wait on me at my office, and I will exhibit the publick books of debt and credit, for the proof of the assertion. But there are several valuable tracts of land, the property of this State, How far those lands will go towards paying the continental debt, do not at this time take upon me to determine.

Every one of the United States have emitted large sums of Money, some part of which has been called in, by giving State Loan office Notes for the same, which are yet due. By this and other proceedures of the several States, they are in debt. The inhabitants of the respective States have received the benefit of such debts: and why they should any of them, wish to connect with any such State, when they know they will be brought in to pay a part of all such arrearages, is a thing almost unaccountable.

As there are four publick rights of land in each town in this State.— One for the first settled minister, one for schools, one for propigating the Gospel in foreign parts. I propose for consideration, whether it would not be advisable for the Assembly to direct each town to lease out the two latter, and the rents to be by each town appropriated for the support of the Gospel in the same.

Lastly— I proceed to state two Matters that are facts. which I believe will not be disputed by any; from which I shall ask two Questions.

Fact first. A certain fraternity of Gentlemen contiguous to Connetticut river, after the inhabitants of the Grants west of said river, had declared themselves a free State by the name of Vermont, did assert that said State had a just right to be a State; and that the grants east of Connetticut river were unconnected with any State, and had a just right to join said State

Question first. Did the dissolution of the Union (so called) lessen the right the State of Vermont had to be a State, before the said Union took place?- if it did, in what manner?

Fact Second. It was often asserted by said gentlemen, that New Hampshire had no right, title or color of jurisdiction to the west of the Mason line. That the Grants west of the Mason line and east of the Connetticut river, had a good right to form themselves into a State. and would do it if the State of Vermont would not take them into union.— The foregoing assertion beeing Granted

Question Second. What propriety is there now in requesting New Hampshire to extend their claim & jurisdiction over the territory of Vermont. I am friends & countrymen Your obedient and ever faithful Servant,

Ira Allen

Norwich, July 13th 1779

235:55

Bennington August 5th 1779

Gentlemen

After reading a resolution of your Hon. body of the first of June last purporting that any further consideration of the dispute subsisting between this State of New York and Vermont should be postponed until your committee (appointed to examine into the said dispute) should have made their report especially in the premises I cannot but take notice with some concern of your resolution of the 16th of the same month which was sent to your Committee by express while they were in this vicinity resolving unanimously that the officers acting under the state of New York who were lately restrained of their liberty by certain persons of a district called the Newhampshire grants ought to be liberated. In this last resolve I find created some jealousies in the minds of many of the Inhabitants of this State on several occasions viz.

1st because it appeared to be counter to the resolution of the first of June aforesaid

2d Because it enters into the merits of the controversy subsisting previous to the reports of said committee and

3d Because it appears that the resolve was mad expaste and the real facts on which it was founded with the many circumstances attending that matter could not (at that time) have been particularly known to Congress and that under such circumstances it appears to those inhabitants

that the authority of this state aught not to be impeached or censured by any resolve

What the said officers (alias delinquents) had suffered for a highanded breach of the peace in rescuing several cattle taken by legal authority for the payment of fines imposed on certain persons who refused to do any proportion guarding the frontiers of this State from the incursions of the British Savages &c and the said officers were liberated before the date of said resolution But as this matter necessarily terminates with the grand controversy subsisting between the two contending governments I shall omit making any particular remarks (by way of defence) on the premises untill congress shall appoint a feature time when New York & Vermont may be heard on the subject at large: at which time I shall cheerfully present to you a vindication of the conduct of this State from its early conflict with New York down to the presant era; and a representation of the many good consequences which have already accrued to the independent States by their assuming government In the mean time I renew the application of Moses Allen & Fay (Agents for this state) to your Hon. of the first of July ult for a union with the free sovereign & independant States of America and in behalf of the people over whome I preside to pay a just proportion of the expence of the war with Great Britain when thereto legally requested. It is evident the inhabitants of this State are in alliance with the States of America already that

that they have fought bled, and a great number of them suffered (being driven by the enemy from their possession with the loss of their most valuable effects while many of their fellow patriotic citizens have nobly fallen in the glorious conflict Witness the memorable battel fought at this place on the 16th day of August 1777 the taking a number of British and relieveing about one hundred american prisoners at the landing near Scondaroga (soon after the battle aforesaid) by a detatchment composed principally of Colonel Herricks Regiment of Rangers raised within this State with other Green Mountain Boys (commanded by Colonel John Brown) and the many other services rendered in the common cause by your friends in this State for which nothing can make an adequate compensation but their being admitted to a union with the other independant States of Americd (Congress will undoubtedly bear in mind that this important controversy subsisted many years before the late revolution took place that it was not occasioned in consequence of it and consequently that it does not equally effect congress to settle it as tho their own measures had given rise and existance to it: so that Governor Clintons extraordinary and repeated importunities to You to come to any determination of the matter: exparte and his hints of coersive measures in case of procrastination in the affair are the more reprehensible. I find by a copy of his Letter of the 29th of May last to congress that he should defer taking any decisive measures (except issuing the necessary orders to the Militia to hold themselves in

readiness &c I have issued like orders to the Militia of this State and notwithstanding I am far from countenancing a measure so disagreeable in its nature while I am sensible that the assistance of every power (which has & continues to operate for the happiness of these independant States) ought to be exerted wholly for their defence & security yet the freeborn citizens of this State can never so far degrade the dignity of human nature or relinquish any parts of that glorious spirit of patriotism, which has hitherto distinguished them in every conflict with the unrelenting and long continued tyranny of designing men and tamely to submit to his mandate or even to be intimedated by a chalenge from him There is a number of able bodied men in the lower half shire of the County of cumberland Some of whome are persons of considerable ~~time~~ property that have even been averse to taking up arms in defence of these States who who take the advantage of the dispute between New-York and Vermont, to screen themselves from service and by there living in the more interior part of the State are necessarily protected by the exertions of their neighbours The Militia officers who pretend to act under New York have been repeatedly applied to furnish a quota to assist in defending the frontiers in any way themselves might choose I heartily wish that some method may be adopted by congress to rouse them to there duty I wish you every happiness and am Gentlemen with the highest ~~esteem~~ sentiment of esteem &c Thomas Chittend

the Hon. the congress &c

Bennington June 14th 1780

235:57

Sir

In consequence of reported intelligence of Col Butlers and his adherents party, their being in Canada. this winter I have reason to apprehend that they may attempt an attack on the Northern frontier of this State. I have therefore judged an order to several regiments of militia under my command to immediately raise one hundred and fifty men, exclusive of Officers; to be at Skeensborough and to continue in service until the first day of December next. only, sooner discharged. And as it is necessary, they be furnished with provision, you will please to give orders to the Commissary in this department, for that purpose. And as the severity of the winter is such, I mean shoes will be necessary, ~~that at least, each man so engaged~~ for scouts, and in case of an attack. I judge it expedient that at least each man so engaged, should have be furnished with ~~one~~ a pair, and as I am informed that there is a number in the Continental Store at Albany; Which, if you will order, I will send accountable to see them returned. on the wagon, A number of camp kettles will be necessary to make them complete, which you will please to order. if in store I desire you will favour me with your answer by the bearer Capt Putnam

I shall acquaint you from time to time - of my intelligence that may come to hand. and am Sir your most

Obedient Humble servant

Thomas Chittenden

To Col Van Schaick &c.

Philadelphia Sept 12th 1780

Sir

We do the honor to forward your Excellency a duplicate of the appointment of Commissioners from the State of Vermont to wait on the Honorable Congress of the United States

Herewith, you will receive a letter from his Excellency the Governor of Vermont, with a pamphlet, refered to in said letter, which we have positive orders to lay before Congress, and are your Excellency's Most Obt Humble Servts

Ira Allen
Stephen R. Bradley

His Excellency Saml Huntington.
President of Congress

To his Excellency Samuel Huntington Esq
President of the Congress of the United States of America—

Sir. We request your Excellency whenever debates come before Congress, that may in anywise affect the rights, Sovereignty or independence of the State of Vermont: that you take the sense of Congress whether we be admitted a personal attendence, the better to discharge the end of our appointment And are your Excellencys Most Humble Servants—

Ira Allen
Stephen R Bradley

Dated Philadelphia Sept 15th 1780.

To the Honerable Congre of the United States of North America

22 Sept. 1780

The Remonstrance of Ira Allen and Stephen R. Bradley, Commissioners from the free and independent State of Vermont, appointed for the time being to attend on Congress — with pleisure they embrace the first opportunity to testify their thanks for the personal favor done them by Congress in giving them attendence though in a private capacity with their honerable body at the same time lament the necessity which obliges them to say, they can no longer sit as idle spectators, without betraying the trust reposed in them. and doing violence to their feelings to see partial modes persued, plans adopted & exparte evidence exhibited which derives all its authority from the attestations of the party. Passages of writings selected, giving very fals representations of facts, to answer no other end but to prejudice your honerable body against the State of Vermont, thereby to intreague and baffle a brave and meritorious people out of their rights and liberties — We can easily conceive that the Secretary's office of the State of New York may be converted into an inexhaustible source to furnish evidence to answer their purposes in the present dispute — Needless would it be for us to inform Congress that by the mode of trial now adopted. the State of Vermont can have no hearing without denying

itself — and to close with these resolutions, which we conceive our enemies have exerted from your Honorable body, and on which the trial is now placed — would be in fact taking on ourselves that humility and self abasement as to lose our political life in order to find it — We believe the wisdom of Congress sufficient to point out that persuing the present mode, is deviating from every principal of the law of Nature or Nations. For if the dispute is between the claiming on one part, and the State of Vermont on the other, whether the latter be a State de jure, as to independent jurisdiction de facto they aught to be considered in the cause of the dispute — till the power interposing have determined whether the latter have an independent jurisdiction dejure. If not; then of course they aught to annihilate the jurisdiction de facto. But to annihilate the State defacto in the first place, is summarily ending the dispute. To deny the latter any jurisdiction defacto, is to deny there is any longer parties in the dispute —

Again, we conceive the means connected with the end and upon no principal whatever can we justify that that either party should establish the modes and rules to be persued in determining disputes without confounding every idea of right and wrong, in the present on the one part might the end as justly have been established, as the ways and means to effect the end

We are far from being willing those brave and Strenuous efforts made by the State of Vermont, in the contest with Great Britan, should be denied by our grasping adversaries, (thirsting after domination and prey) in the specious pretext of riotors, tortiously assuming Government

and we thereby loose all credit for the Men and Money we have expended. Thus while we are necessitated to remonstrate against the proceedings of Congress on the present mode, we are willing at the same time. any equitable enquiry should be made: the State of Vermont being allowed equal priviledges with other States in the dispute— and that the state of Vermont may stand justified to your honorable body and to the World both as to her present and future conduct,— we are indiced, as well as from principles of attatchment to the great american cause as a regard we have for peace and harmony among the States now at War with Great Britain, to make the following proposals—

First. That the State of Vermont will as soon as may be forward to the Secretary of Congress an attested return of all male persons liable to duty agreeable to Militia act heretofore exhibited to Congress in a code of laws entitled "The Laws of Vermont," and the State of Vermont shall for and during the present war with Great Britain from year to year to year furnish an equal number of troops in the field in proportion to their numbers as Congress shall estimate the quota of the several United States in proportion to their numbers which said troops shall be clothed, and Quartered, and paid by the State of Vermont, and at the close of the War, the dispute shall be equitably settled by the mediation of Sovereign powers. and nothing herein contained shall be construed to take away the right any of the United States to have in or over the State of Vermont. Or,

Secondly. We are willing Congress being possessed of Sovereignty should interpose to prevent the effusion of humane blood. at the same time we reprobate every idea of Congress sitting as a court

of judicature to determin the dispute by virtue of authority given them by the acts or acts of the State or States that make but one party

It gives us pungent grief that such an important crisis at this critical juncture of affairs. on which all depends, should be forced on by any Gentlemen professing themselves friends of American with such a vehemence and spirit as appears on the State of New York - and shall only add that if the matter is thus pursued we stand ready to appeal to God, and the World, who must be accountable, for the direful consequences that may issue. —

Ira Allen
Stephen R. Bradley

Signed at Philadelphia the 22 day of
Sept. in the year of our Lord 1780

Philadelphia Oct 2nd 1780

235:61

Sir

We have the honour to inform Congress that the time of our appointment to attend on Congress expired yesterday, in consequence of which we set this morning to meet the General Assembly of the State, which are to convene on the 12th instant, to addopt measures for prosecuting the war in conjunction with the thirteen United States, and for regulating their own internal police. We are assured that the General court of the State of Vermont will make every effort in their power to establish the sovereignty and independence of America, and could wish that principle might be invariably observed by every man in authority throughout the American States. The dispute respecting the State of Vermont is of such great concern, it appears to us of the Highest importance that Congress should be rightly acquainted with the dispute before they interpose on either side, which at present they cannot while America is in her present situation. we can further observe that we have many papers, more authentic than those that have been exhibited to Congress, that will shew our rights to Sovereignty, over the Claims of all our adversaries; which we have not hear at present. For these and many reasons, we must request Congress to postpone a further inquiry in the premises till a future day. And have the Honor to be your Excellency's Most Obedient humble Servants

Ira Allen

Stephen R Bradley

His Excellency Saml Huntington President of Congress

235:62

Copy of a Letter to His Excellency Governor Chittenden from Col Alexander Webster by Express dated White Creek Oct 15th 1780

Dated White Creek Oct 14th 1780

"Dear Governor. This Morning about 10 o Clock I received an Express from Capt Childs of Granvill begging for Assistance. as he was informed by the Return of a flag. That the Enemy lay at Ticonderoga and Independence in number 500. besides a reinforcement they had got. I immediately ordered the Regiment to march for assisting the Frontiers. Met an hour after this. I received an other Express from Cambridge that the Enemy had burned Ballstown and were on their way either for Still Water or Sanatoga, and were in number 500 Strong I must therefore beg your Assistance, either at this place or Sanatoga, or Fort Edward, immediately, or we may all be cut off. General Allen is informed of the above Information I am your Excellency's very obedient & Humble servant

Alexander Webster. Col

His Excellency Governor Clinton is at Albany desired me to inform your Excellency as above and Requests your Assistance in order to get ahead of the Enemy if Possible

Governor Chittenden

Extract from the Original Inclosure

Thomas Tolman

State of Vermont. In Council Burlington Nov 22 1780

235:63

Sir

I enclose & transmit your Excellency a Copy of my letter to Congress of the 25th of July last and an Explanation of the Controversy between the State of New York and this State, and duly Considering the present peculiar Circumstances of both States, I am induced to make a positive demand on the Legislature of the State over whom you preside, to quit and fully relinquish their Claim of Jurisdiction over this State and also propose to them to join in a Solid Union with this State for the mutual defence against the British Forces, which invade the American States. Particularly, such part as make incursions on the Borders of the two States from the Province of Quebec. Such a union for the reciprocal advantages of both Governments. I am willing to ratify and Confirm on the part of this State, Col Ino. Allen who delivers this waits your answer to these proposals. In behalf of the Council and General Assembly. I have the Honour to be with great Esteem your Excellency very Obedient Humble Servant

Thomas Chittenden

His Excellency

George Clinton Esqr Governor &c &c -

of the State of New York to be Communicated to the Legislature thereof

235.64

Head Quarters Castleton
2d Octr 1780

Sir

I received your letter to me with Genl Haldimans to Gov[r] Chittenden last evening by Captain Sherwood

Every respect will be shewn your flag and no hostilities will be permited on my part, and it is expected you will extend your cessation of hostilities against any of the Northern parts of the Frontiers of the State of New York during this negotiation

Special orders are given to prevent all hostilities until I receive your answer to this. Major Clark is appointed to deliver this to you by a flag and wait your answer

Your most obt Servt
Ethan Allen

PS Your letter with Genl Haldimans I have forwarded by express to Gov[r] Chittenden and make no doubt some proper person will be appointed to settle the Cartel as soon as possible

E A

To Chas Carleton

Extract of a letter from Governor Clinton to Governor Chittenden dated Albany 26th November 1780

235:65

Sir

This acknowledges the receipt of yours letter of the 19th instant which I thought proper to answer immediately upon my return to this place and lest from my silence the contrary might be presumed to inform you that I never gave Col Webster such orders as are mentioned in his Letter. I sincerely lament the Contest between this State and its subjects on the Grants and could wish in case of opposition to the common Enemy that the dispute might be kept out of sight and both parties could conduct themselves so as not to injure the Claims of either. Yet you may be assured until a Decision by ~~Congress~~ competent Authority. I will neither in my private ~~Character~~ or Public Character do any act from which there can ever remotely be inferred an Acquiescence from me in another seperate and Independant Jurisdiction neither what this State claims as its rightful Territory.

I am Sir your most obedient Servant

Thomas Chittenden Esqr. George Clinton

The above Letter is extracted verbatim from the Original

wrote by H Fleeson. The Letter of the 1st spoken of in the above letter from Gov Chittenden cannot as yet be found. But it doth appear that Governor Chittenden did write probable the same day he received Col Websters Letter Long 1st to in question —

State of Vermont In Council
Bennington Dec 12th 1780 -
235.66

Sir

I inclosed I transmit your Excellency a copy of my Letter to Congress of the 25th of July last, which together with this I request may be laid before the Legislature of the State over which you preside, for their perusal and consideration as it is the only method that Vermont has at present in her power, of soliciting a Union with the United States, to propose it to their several Legislatures seperately and as I have not received any answer from Congress to my proposals of Union in my said Letter to them, nor to a sundry other similar offers from this Government with additional proffers to that honorable body to bear a just proportion of the Expence of the present War with Great Britain, it does not appear that Congress have determined to admit this State into Union The arguments and representations exhibited in my said letter to Congress, are equally applicable for the consideration of the several Legislatures of the United States. This being premised. I proceed to propose an alliance and permanent confederation between the State of Connecticut and Vermont against the hostile attempts of British power or such conditions as may be agreed upon for the mutual advantage and security of the Liberties and Independance of the two states respectively. Similar proposals are made to the Legislatures of the state of Rhode Island and Providence plantation by this Government. and also a demand on the Legislatures of the States of New York. New Hampshire. and Massachusetts Bay, to relinquish their Claims of jurisdiction to Vermont. With proposals to unite with them in a like union. The Citizens of this State are of opinion that it is owing to the undue influence which their contiguous claiming States (to this Territory) have in Congress that Vermont has not been hitherto prevented from a Union with

the United States, that they consider as the greatest injustice and ingratitude, as they have ever since the commencement of the present war been a frontier in part to every [one] of them. and in such circumstances have nothing better to expect from them at the conclution of this war, than to be obliged to wage war with them, to protect their liberties against their exhorbitant claims, or fall a prey to them, notwithstanding ~~them~~ such a series of sufferings and beneficial services done to the United States in general, and to them in particular in the course of this war

and although these considerations abstracted from all others are sufficiently discouraging, yet additional evils arise when we consider the force of the enemy in Canada the probability of their being reinforced between this and the conclution of the next campaign, together with their advantages of the navigation of the Lakes. by which means they can suddenly bring their whole force into this state which cannot fail to be their object next campaign (unless some measures be immediately adopted to prevent it) as the frontier settlements of the state of new York are already destroyed, in a manner therefore will be so great that it will be out of the power of this state to form magazines and support a body of troops sufficient to withstand them and the consequences must inevitably be either that the inhabitants of this state be sacrificed or secondly they must be obliged to retire into the interior parts of the United states for safety or thirdly be under the disagreeable necessity of making the best terms with the British that may be in their power.

nearly the same would be the condition of either of the United States seperately considered from their union, (as they would be unable to withstand the British power) which may abundantly serve to evince that it is out

of the power of Vermont to be able to be free then

of [illegible] serviceable to them only they are admitted into the union
I have the honor to be with sentiments of respect and
esteem your Excellency's very obt Humble servant

Thomas Chittenden

His Excellency Governor
Tichenell.

Bennington 25th July 1780. 235:1

Sir

Your Excellency's Letter of the 10th ult inclosing Several Acts of Congress of the second and tenth of the same month I accidently received the 6th inst have laid them before my Council and taken their advice thereon and now beg ~~Lead~~ your Excellency's indulgence while I treat on a subject of such moment in its nature and which so nearly Concerns the Citizens of this State.

However Congress may view these resolutions they are considered by the people of this state as being in their nature subversive of the natural rights which they have to Liberty and Independence, as well as incompatible with the principles on which Congress grounded their own right to Independence; and have a natural and direct tendency to endanger the Liberty of America, which have hitherto been defended at great Expence both of Blood and treasure. Vermont Right to Independence has been sufficiently argued, and the good consequences resulting to the United States, from its first assuming Government clearly vindicated in several pamphlets which have been officially laid before Congress. I beg leave to refer your excellency to "Vermont appeal &c" particularly from the 32d to the 42d page in which, among other things is Contained a particular answer to the resolution of the 24th of September referred to in the resolves of the second of June last; and a denial of the authority of Congress over this State so far as relates to their existance as a free and Independent Government declared notwithstanding by a Resolution of the ninth art. that

Congress have assigned the second Thursday of September next to judge absolutely of the Independence of Vermont or of its pretended jurisdiction, Can Congress suppose that this Government are so void of reason as not to discover that the resolves of the second and ninth of June aforesaid so far as the authority of Congress may be supposed to extend to this State are levelled directly against their Independence

Vermont as before mentioned being a free and Independent State have denied the authority of Congress to judge of their jurisdiction: over the head of all this it appears that Congress by their resolutions of the 9th ult. have determined that they have power to judge the cause, which has already determined the essence of the dispute; for if Vermont does not belong to some one of the United States, Congress, Could have no such power without their Consent; so that ~~Congress~~ consequently determining that they have such a power has determined that Vermont have no right to Independence, for it is utterly Incompatable, with the rights and prerogatives of an independent state to be under the controul or subjugation of any other power. Vermont have therefore no alternative; they must either submit to the unwonatable decree of Congress or continue their appeal to Heaven and to arms. There may in future be a tryal at Congress which of the United States shall have this territory or how it shall be decided amongst them (but this does not concern Vermont) and it is altogether probable there have been proposals for deciding it between the State of New Hampshire and New York the same as the King of ~~Prussia~~ Prussia

the ~~King~~ Empress of Russia. and the Empress of Hungary divide
Poland between those three Powers. with this difference
only that the former and not inferior of Vermont
the Claim that has hovered over Vermont since the engross
ments Claims of ~~w~~ New Hampshire and Massachusetts Bay
have been seen and its motion carefully observed by this
Government who expected that Congress would have
averted the storm, but disappointed in this. and unjustly
treated, as the People (over whom I preside on the most
serious and candid deliberation) conceive themselves
to be in this affair. yet. blessed by Heaven with constancy
of mind and connection abroad. as our honest. ~~Virtuous~~
Valiant, and brave people, and necessitated to declare
to your Excellency. to Congress and to the world that as
Life Liberty and the rights of the People intrusted
them by God are inseperable so they do not expect
to be justified in the eye of Heaven or that Posterity
would call them blessed if they should formerly
surrender any part.
Without deceit Congress have (previous to this)
been acquainted that this State has maintained
several Forts on its frontiers at its own
expence, which are well known to be the
only security to this Quarter of the frontier
Inhabitants of the State of Massachusetts Bay
and New Hampshire; and it is highly probable that
Albany and such part of the State of New York as
lies to the northward of that would before this time have

been ravaged by the Common enemy had it not been
for the Indefatigable exertion of this State and the
fears which the Enemy have been and are still hopeful
of that their retreat would be intercepted by the
troops from those Ports and the militia of this State
Thus by grounding the Frontiers. Nor this State secured
the friendship of part of the private Gentlemen and yeomanry
even of those States whose Representatives it seems are
seeking its destruction and having the General approbation
of disinterested States this People are undoubtedly in
a condition to maintain Government, but should they
be deceived in such conjectures, yet as they are not
included in the thirteen United States but conceive themselves
to be a seperate body they would still have in their
power other advantages for they are (if necessitated to it)
at liberty to offer or accept Terms of Cessation of Hostilities
with Great Britain without the approbation of any
other man or body of Men for or promise that neither
Congress nor the Legislatures of those States which they
represent will support Vermont in her Independence
but declare her to the usurped Government of any others
power she has not the most distant motive to Continue
Hostilities with Great ~~Britain~~ Britain and maintain an
important frontier for the benefit of the United States and
for no other reward then the ungrateful one of being
insulted by them — thus Vermont have taken an active
part in the war subsisting between the United States and
Great Britain under an expectation of recovering her Liberty:
Considering the ~~Claim Colonists in all cases~~ the claim of
Great Britain to make Laws "to bind the Colonists in all cases,

Whatsoever without their Consent, to be an abridgment
of the natural rights of mankind; and it appears that the
said resolves of the second and ninth of June are equally arbitrary
and that they punish equal motive to the Citizens of Vermont
to resist the one as the other; for if the United States have
departed from the continental principles upon which they
first commenced the war with Great ~~Britain~~ Britain
Britain and have appeared to threaten the power of
usurping the rights of Vermont, it is time high time for her serious-
-ly to consider what she is fighting for and to what purpose
she has been more than five years last past spilling the blood
of her bravest sons. This Government have dealt with
severely towards the Tories confiscated some of their Estates
imprisoned some Banished some and hanged some &c
And kept the remainder in good subjection as any
State belonging to the Union And they have likewise
granted unto worthy rulers in the neighboring States
some part of their unappropriated land. the knowledge
-able avails of which have been faithfully appropriated
for the defence of the northern frontiers. which eventually
terminates in the support of the Interest and security
the Independence and Sovereignty of the United States,
and often having faithfully executed all this, have
the mortification to meet with the resentment of Congress
Circulated in hand bills, and the New York publick papers
representing their Conduct " in contravening the good intentions
of Congress as being highly unwarrantable and subversive
of the peace and welfare of the the United States ". those

~~resolutions~~ resolves serve only to raise expiring hopes
and expectations and to ~~new~~ rekindle a large shining
flame of a few Tories and Schismatics in this State who
have never been instrumental in promoting the common
Cause of America. With regard to the State of the Massachusetts
Bay. They have not as a Legislative body any claim
to the Territory of Vermont nor have they enacted Laws
judicially authorizing Congress to take Cognizance
thereof agreeable to the aforementioned Resolves. a majo-
rity of their Legislative body considering such pretentions
to be an infringement on the rights of Vermont, and therefore
the State of the Massachusetts Bay Cannot be considered as a
party in this controversy and as to the State of New Hampshire
altho they have judicially Authorized Congress to make a
final adjudication of their Late Stanted and very extraordinary
Claim to the territory of Vermont; yet by referring back
to the original proceedings between the two States it appears
that the general Court of New Hampshire had previous
to laying their said Claim, settled their Boundary line
with the State of Vermont, and established Connecticut River
for the Boundary between the respective Governments and
so far as the approbation of the Government of New Hampshire
can go, have previously Conceded to the Independence of
Vermont. the particulars of which are too prolix to be
given in this Letter but are exhibited at Large in a pamphlet
Entitled "A Concise refutation of the Claims of New Hampshire
and Massachusetts Bay to the territory of Vermont. &c

Which is hereuith transmitted as a lien against the right
of N Hampshire to or tryal from any point of Vermont
The government of N Hampshire ever since the royal
adjudication of the Boundary line between them and the Government
of New York in 1764 have, the Inhabitants of the contested
territory out of their protection and abandoned them
to the Tyranny of New York: and have very lately, over
the head of the settlement aforesaid laid claim to
the said Territory. and Enacted Laws as aforesaid
to enable Congress to judiciadly determine the merit
of said Claims. how Glaringly illegal absurd and
inconsistent must their conduct as a Legislative body
appear in this respect
Such inequalanity among individuals arise from
the ill government of the humain passions.
But when that takes place in public bodies it is -
unpardonable as its influence is more extensive
and injurious to society - Hence it appears that ~~Congress~~
legally speaking ~~—~~ neither the State of N Hampshire
or Massachusetts Bay, can be with propriety considered
as parties in the controversy; and consequently New
York alone is left a competitor with Vermont,
even admiting that Congress are possessed of sufficient
authority to determine these disputes agreeable to
their resolutions which by the Government is by no
means admissible notwithstanding the usurpation
and injustice of neighbouring Governments
towards Vermont and the late resolutions of

Congress this Government (from a principle of rivetted
and close attachment to the cause of liberty as well
as a thorough examination of their own policy and
induced once more to offer Union with the United
States of America of which Congress are the legal
representative body. Should this be denied, this State
will propose the same to the Legislatures of the United
States Seperately: and take such other measures as
self preservation may justify.
In behalf of the Council I am Sir your Excellency's
most obedient Humble Servant

Thomas Chittenden

His Excellency.
Samuel Huntington Esqr
President of Congress.